



# **Vanquishing the V/PD**

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This publication is primarily directed towards airport management to be disseminated to all levels of personnel working at your airfield. It does not matter how large or how small your airfield or how tight your budget may be, this information must be made available to your people by whatever means. Vanquishing the V/PD can be accomplished through a solid partnership between the FAA and airport management. The responsibility of making sure that the proper safeguards are in place; however, lies squarely on the shoulders of the airport management. Please use this information and all that follows as a guide by which to produce a safer environment at your airfield.

Airport management can provide the highest quality movement area training for its employees during initial and recurrent driver training but this training will not reduce the number of Vehicle Pedestrian Deviation (V/PD) runway incursions if the driver receiving the training has an inherent lack of respect for the runway environment. Every week the FAA investigates runway incursions where very experienced drivers enter the runway environment under questionable circumstances. In so many cases the root cause seems to be a general lack of respect for the runway environment. From the very beginning drivers should be taught that the runway is sacred territory. This applies to pilots, vehicle drivers and air traffic controllers. A good driver training course will always emphasize that the runway as sacred territory which should never be entered unless:

- The driver has a SPECIFIC clearance to do so.
- The driver completely understands and then complies with the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) clearances.
- The driver always looks at the final approach and down the length of the runway in both directions before entering.
- If a clearance does not sound right, hold your position and question ATCT (when in doubt, don't go out).

One can teach these safety elements to drivers over and over again, yet many drivers will still enter the runway environment with little care or caution. Again, the root cause seems to be lack of respect for the runway environment. The solution to the problem appears to be incorporating the teaching of respect for the runway environment into the driver training curriculum. This is easier said than done. How can we effectively teach respect for the runway environment? We can start by attempting to modify behaviors.

- Try to teach the driver to ALWAYS ASSUME THE GUN IS LOADED
- From the beginning teach the driver REINFORCEMENT THROUGH REPETITION
- Teach the driver a MINDSET
- USE YOURSELF AND YOUR GOOD HABBITS AS AN EXAMPLE
- Teach INFLEXIBLE, SAFE PROCEDURES
- Impress upon the driver that IT WILL NOT BE ALRIGHT IF YOU GO ONTO THE RUNWAY DURING AN UNCLEAR SITUATION
- Impress upon the driver that THE WORLD DOES NOT REVOLVE AROUND THE DRIVER AND HIS/HER MISSION
- If the driver cannot be taught respect for the runway environment, that driver SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE ON OR NEAR THE MOVEMENT AREA

It is not easy to teach respect. Remember, though, that attempting to teach respect in the vehicle or the class room is preferable to the vehicle driver learning respect for the runway environment the hard way.

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